

executing the malfunction-information determination operation. As a result, even if the diagnosis target is changed, and thereby the timing for executing the malfunction-information determination operation is changed, there is no need to change or modify the malfunction-information managing object 200 that outputs the MIL information. Because of this reason, the reusability of the self-diagnosis program is improved, and the disadvantage discussed in the above section (2) can be dissolved.

Furthermore, the adjustment of the result of the malfunction-information determination operation and the MIL control operation are carried out by the different objects, i.e., by the malfunction-information managing object 200, which outputs the MIL information, and the MIL controlling object 400, which controls the MIL, respectively. Thus, even if the diagnosis target is changed, there is a higher possibility that the MIL controlling object 400 is reused. On the other hand, if only the logic for executing the MIL control operation needs to be changed, the malfunction-information managing object 200 can be reused without modifying it. As a result, the reusability of the self-diagnosis program is improved, and the disadvantage discussed in the above section (3) can be dissolved.

Here, the malfunction-information managing object 200 of the present embodiment corresponds to "the malfunction-information managing object" of the present invention, and the malfunction-information storing object 300 corresponds to "the malfunction-information storing object" of the present invention. Also, the MIL controlling object 400

corresponds to "the MIL controlling object" of the present invention.

5 The self-diagnosis program of the vehicular control device can be provided as the program that is executed by the computer system side. Such a program may be stored in a computer readable recording medium, such as a FD, an MO, a CD-ROM, a DVD, a hard disk or the like and can be loaded to the computer system to execute it therein. Furthermore, a ROM or a backup RAM can be used as the computer readable recording medium to store the program and can be provided in the computer system.

10 Additional advantages and modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art. The invention in its broader terms is therefore, not limited to the specific details, representative apparatus, and illustrative examples shown and described.

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